

Marianapolis graduates 93, presents academic awards



THOMPSON, Conn. — On Sunday, June 2, a group of 93 students (71 seniors, three post-graduates, seven joint diploma students, and 12 international diploma students) graduated from Marianapolis Preparatory School.

On Saturday, June 1, during Baccalaureate Mass, members of the Marianapolis Class of 2024 received medals honoring their academic achievements. On Sunday, June 2, during Commencement, members of the class received Silver Bowl award honors, which celebrate several areas ranging from athletics to community service to character.

Marianapolis Class of 2024 in Alphabetical Order

Abigail Alicandro, Oxford; Greyson Baldaro, Oxford; Toriana Baldassari, Webster; Aaron Barnwell, Killingly, Conn.; Lillian Belsito, Millbury; Megan

Bokis, North Brookfield; Tim Bollen, Leuven, Belgium; Celia Bouchard, Douglas; Lillian Brazeau, Douglas; Robert Broden, Sturbridge; Julianna Buoniconti, Dudley; Mwewa Chiwaya, Killingly, Conn.; Lauren Conde, Danielson, Conn.; Riana Conlon, North Oxford; Sidney Corriveau, Brimfield; Mai Phuong Dao, Hanoi, Vietnam; Sullivan Donohue, Westfield; Phuong Nhi Duong, Hanoi, Vietnam; Marina Fernández De Paz, Oviedo, Spain; Patrick Fitzgibbons, Hadley; Barbara Forgues, Shrewsbury; Jaiden Foskett, Charlton; Kyle Gallo, Dudley; Calvin Givner, Oxford; Dan Quynh Ha, Bien Hoa, Vietnam; Sidney Hall II, Worcester; Linh Khanh Hoang, Hanoi, Vietnam; Julia Jachimczyk, Sutton; Olivia Kowalski, Charlton; Rebecca Lamarche Roedan, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Dylan Lavallee, Thompson, Conn.; Sydney Lavallee,

Grafton; Bao Yen Le, Hanoi, Vietnam; Quoc Thai Le, Hanoi, Vietnam; Chengxun Li, Xiamen, China; Brendan L'Italiani, Douglas; Zachary Litke, Brooklyn, Conn.; Adrián Jesús López Estrada, Villahermosa, Mexico; Sydney Lundt, Woodstock, Conn.; Bridget MacDonough, Grafton; Kiera MacKenzie, Woodstock, Conn.; Hà Anh Mai, Hanoi, Vietnam; Sydney Maloney, Sutton; Peyton Manyak, Douglas; Claire Marchand, Holden;

Colby Mayen, Dudley; Tessa McCabe, Douglas; Sean Michailides, Chepachet, R.I.; Kago Moatshe, Johannesburg, South Africa; Zaire Moore, Thompson, Conn.; Luciana Najjar, Northborough; Santiago Navarro Villa, Alicante, Spain; Thir Anh Nguyen Dao, Hanoi, Vietnam; Duy Tien Đức Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam; Linh Bao Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam; Khanh Linh Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam; Phuong-Chi Nguyen-Vu, Hanoi, Vietnam; Quoc

Nam Nguyễn, Mong Cai City, Vietnam; Quoc Anh Nguyen, Hanoi, Vietnam; Thanh Tam Nguyen, Hanoi, Vietnam; Thuc Anh Ngo Nguyen, Hanoi, Vietnam; Tuong Anh Nguyễn, Hanoi, Vietnam; Riley O'Connor, Dudley; Minh Vũ Nhật Phan, Hanoi, Vietnam; Alanna Phillipo, Millbury; Trần Nhật Khánh Phùng, Hanoi, Vietnam; Kasia Piekieniak, Dudley; Wiktoria Potem, Webster; Olivia Richardson, Lincoln, R.I.; Adrianna Roszkowski, Oxford;

Anthony Russo, Brooklyn, Conn.; Kailey Russo, Brooklyn, Conn.; William Savoie, Northbridge; Cassidy Semo, Dudley; Emily Shamback, Sterling, Conn.; Andrew Shultz, Oxford; Harrison Stanwood, Northborough; Kindalak Thongsavath, Luang Prabang, Laos; Sergio Torrado Rubio, Madrid, Spain; Violeta Torres, Plainfield, Conn.; Margherita Traversa Young, Rome, Italy

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Killingly BOE votes to retire mascot again

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Board of Education has once again decided to retire the “Redmen” moniker after a brief review by a special ad hoc committee. A recommendation provided to the Board of Education on June 12 and approved by the majority of the board will see Killingly High School move away from the Native American mascot for the second time in the last five years continuing a longstanding debate that gained the town national attention during the pandemic.

The debate over the use of Native American mascots is not unique to Killingly. Schools nationwide and even national sports teams have begun to move away from the mascots as tribal nations and activists have deemed these names and likenesses to be offensive and, in some cases, racist. However, opponents to the changes, which includes some Native American groups, say the names preserve the tradition of strength and honor represented by the native people. In Connecticut, the state has withheld certain funds from towns whose schools have maintained a Native

American-themed mascot specifically costing Killingly \$94,000 in grant money each year it continues to use the Redmen name. In 2019 the Board of Education voted to retire the mascot and adopt the Red Hawks as its new name. Come election time, local Republican's ran on essentially a single-issue campaign to reinstate the name and voters filled the board with GOP representatives who then brought the name back. The election and its resulting shift back to the “Redmen” name gained Killingly national attention as a prime example of the politically charged

nature of the movement away from such mascots. In 2023 other controversies involving the Board of Education led voters to elect several Democrats giving that party the majority. Earlier this year an ad hoc committee was formed to further determine the fate of the team's name.

As would be expected, the debate over the proposed change was heated at times and split solidly along party lines. Supporters of the mascot argued it as a source of pride and that the students desire a mascot to call their own as athletes

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Woodstock Academy Head of School announces retirement plans

BY JASON BLEAU
VILLAGER CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — After more than a decade with Woodstock Academy, one of the oldest public schools in the country, Head of School Christopher Sandford has announced he will retire at the end of the upcoming school year.

The announcement was made through a pair of letters released by the Academy, one from Sandford himself and the other from the President of the Academy's Board of Trustees. In his letter, Sandford acknowledged that the decision involved plenty of “reflection and consideration” and has set June 30, 2025 as his official date of retirement.

“As I prepare to embark on this new chapter in my life, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each of you who have made my journey at The Academy so memorable. Your kindness, encouragement, and unwavering support have been the driving force behind my dedication to our shared mission of nurturing young minds and fostering a vibrant learning community,” Sandford wrote. “While I will miss the daily interactions with students, colleagues, and alumni, and the sense of purpose that comes from being a part of The Academy, I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Retirement will allow me to pursue personal interests, slow down, and explore new opportunities.”

Sandford's letter thanked the Trustees, parents, and students for their support since his appointment in 2013. His tenure will make him the fourth-longest-serving Head of School (formerly titled Headmaster) in

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Boyd secures funding for Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp

POMFRET — Rep. Pat Boyd (D-Pomfret) is proud to announce that the Windham-Tolland 4H Camp in Pomfret will be receiving a grant for \$1,000,000 for emergency dam repairs. The funding was approved by the State Bonding Commission on June 7 with the support of State Sen. Mae Flexer (D-Windham).

“The camp has always been a vibrant spot in our community, and this funding will go a long way to help with the repairs needed for the camp to continue to serve youth in the Quiet Corner,” Boyd said. “Funding this project is essential to keeping the camp open not just for the foreseeable future but for a very long time after. Thank you to Governor Ned Lamont for adding this item to the Bond Commission agenda.”



“The Windham County 4-H Foundation Inc. is celebrating 70 years of service to Connecticut youth in 2024. Our large pond is the centerpiece of our property and programs,” said Jane Rider, president of the Windham

County 4H Foundation. “The reconstruction of the dam is vital to our Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp and Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Education programs’ survival and to the lives of the thousands

of children who come through our gates every year. They experience life and learning experiences ‘unplugged’ and engaged with the great outdoors and make lifelong friends. We are tre-

Turn To **4-H CAMP** page **A9**

Day Kimball Health’s Caitlyn Sward honored as a 2024 Healthcare Hero by CT Hospital Association

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Health is proud to announce that Caitlyn Sward has been honored with the 2024 Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) Healthcare Heroes Award.

The 2024 CHA Healthcare Heroes Award celebrates and recognizes

es the invaluable contributions of exceptional healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. This year, the award was presented to an individual from each Connecticut hospital.

Sward is a Registered Dietician who originally

came to Day Kimball as a dietician in its Oncology department. She quickly identified the need for food assistance on the hospital premises as dietitian-recommended patient nutrition directions were not being implemented due to lack of funds and poor access to transportation to other food assistance facilities. An analysis of the state's population showed that Northeastern Connecticut had one of the highest food insecure rates in the state with 11.9 percent of the population of Windham County experiencing food insecurity.

When new data emerged showing that the food insecurity rate had increased by an estimated 34.1 percent, Sward estab-

lished a “Cupboard” in the spring of 2020 bringing more awareness to the importance of Windham County residents who regularly struggle with food provision. What’s more, in addition to these staggering statistics, cancer patients often experience undue financial burden with 42 percent of cancer patients spend their entire life savings within two years of their diagnosis. This program, designed to address food insecurity issues for patients being treated within the Oncology department, has affectionately been named “Caitlyn’s Cupboard.”

Since Caitlyn’s Cupboard began, more than 200 patients have been provided with food supplies as well as limited non-food supplies, nutrition education, and coupons for fresh produce and dairy. Caitlyn’s

Cupboard has been able to partner with IHSP’s Daily Bread (a food assistance organization in the community) for cancer nutrition. The Caitlyn’s Cupboard program continues to grow in its service to patients in our Oncology program and is supported via donations from the community and Day Kimball staff.

“Caitlyn exemplifies what it means to be a Healthcare Hero. Her dedication to serving our patients and community is truly inspirational,” said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer of Day Kimball Health. “Food insecurity is a critical issue in our community, affecting the health and well-being of many, especially those with chronic health conditions. Caitlyn is an invaluable asset to our organization, her patients, and the community. The food pantry program she created enhances our ability to treat the whole patient by addressing their nutritional needs during and after cancer treatment.”

Since 2002, CHA has included a celebration of healthcare heroes as part of its Annual Meeting, which took place on Thursday, June 13. At the event, healthcare heroes who represent all types of care from every corner of Connecticut’s hospitals received a certificate from CHA and a Proclamation from the Office of Gov. Ned Lamont, which says in part:

“This recognition celebrates your outstanding leadership. The honor you are receiving signifies your outstanding professional accomplishments in the healthcare services sector... Through your thoughtful work, you have demonstrated professional excellence and extraordinary service to your community, organization, and to the State of Connecticut. Therefore, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, on this day of Thursday, June 13, 2024, do hereby officially convey honor and recognition upon Caitlyn Sward.

VILLAGER ALMANAC

At CT AUDUBON

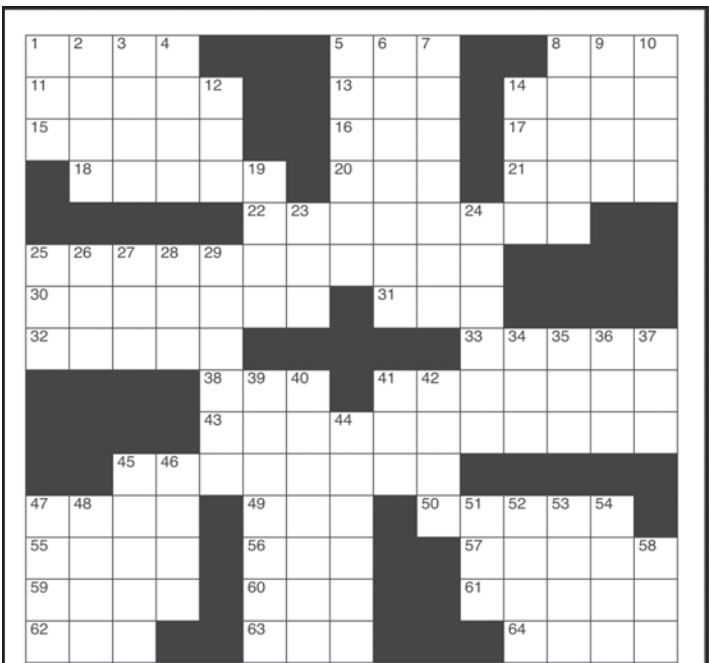
Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of June 10: Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Yellow Warbler, Purple Martin, Veery, Wood Thrush, Bobwhite, Willow Flycatcher, American Redstart, Great-horned Owl, Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Baltimore Oriole, Indigo Bunting. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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 - Breezed through
 - Supervises interstate commerce
 - Unruly group
 - Backs away from
 - Expression of understanding
 - Have concern for
 - Monetary units
 - Congressman (abbr.)
 - Iranian city
 - Eating houses
 - 2,000 lbs.
 - Grandmother
 - They include North, South and Central
 - In an early way
 - Foes
 - Shuttered British entertainment magazine
- One who unloads cages
 - Another term for sesame
 - Formally forbid
 - Make clear
 - Inaccessible
 - Get through
 - Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - Decameter
 - Type of sword
 - Actor Idris
 - Affirmative (slang)
 - Afflicted
 - One point north of northeast
 - Born of
 - Arabic name
 - Traditional Hong Kong street food: __ pai dong
 - Termination point
 - Email function

- #### CLUES DOWN

 - Sign language
 - In style
 - Helsinki neighborhood
 - Unable to hear
 - More rapid
 - An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
 - In a cagey way
 - Kate and Rooney are two
 - Algerian port
 - Community in Ladakh
 - Midway between south and southeast
 - Town in Galilee
 - Satisfy
 - Italian impressionist painter
 - Brass instrument
 - Chest muscle (slang)
 - Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
 - Records electric currents generated by the brain
- Woman (French)
 - Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
 - Baseball stat
 - Pointed end of a pen
 - Popular sports league
 - Body part
 - Unlikely to provoke dissent
 - Yellowish cotton cloth
 - Domesticated house pet
 - Untruths
 - Set out to attract
 - Spiritual leader
 - Abba __, Israeli politician
 - Repair
 - Genus of flowering plants
 - Swiss river
 - Prejudice
 - River in central Europe
 - Harness
 - Father

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Killingly High School to hold blood drive

KILLINGLY—On Saturday, July 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Killingly High School will be hosting a Blood Drive run by the American Red Cross. It will be held in the Gym at 226 Putnam Pike, Dayville. Please call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit Schedule a Blood, Platelet or Plasma Donation | American Red Cross (redcrossblood.org) and type in the zip code 06241 to schedule an appointment.

Your donation will be rewarded with a NEW American Red Cross Umbrella and a Fandango movie ticket to see Twisters!

All donors must bring a Photo ID for identification and medication list (applicable for anyone taking prescriptions or over-the-counter medication). If you want to streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes, please visit: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass> to complete the pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of the appointment.

Tips and information for donating can be found at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/blood-donation-process/before-during-after.html>.

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Northeast CT community pulls together to help church in need

EASTFORD — Several churches of northeast Connecticut are excited to host the “Fabulously Fun Family Fundraiser” on July 6 from 3-7:30 p.m. to benefit the Congregational Church of Eastford (CCE) Fire Fund.

This family-friendly event, sponsored by local area churches, and generously supported by many area businesses, promises an afternoon of fun, games, and entertainment for all ages.

The Congregational Church of Eastford Fire Fund was established to support the replacement of the historic Congregational Church of Eastford following the devastating fire earlier last year. All proceeds from the event will directly contribute to the rebuilding efforts, helping to provide a new home for this service-focused congregation.

One of the organizers, Herm Barlow said, “I have been pleasantly surprised by how widespread the support for this effort has been, crossing many cultural and faith values. This demonstrates that in northeast Connecticut, community is still highly valued.”

Old Trinity Church to hold Independence Day Eucharist

BROOKLYN — In honor of Independence Day, the public is invited to an historic Eucharist at Old Trinity Church on Sunday, June 30 at 10 a.m. Located at 60 Church St., Old Trinity is the oldest standing Episcopal church in Connecticut. The service will feature a salute to American folk music officiated by priest-in-charge, The Rev. Dr. Gretchen S. Grimshaw.

Also at Old Trinity, there will be a healing service with Gospel music Saturday, July 20 at 2 p.m.

For information visit <http://www.trinityepiscopalchurchbrooklyn.org>.

Trinity’s services are available online at <https://www.facebook.com/trinity-churchbrooklyn>.

Town of Woodstock Immediate Volunteer Opportunities

The Town of Woodstock is looking for dedicated volunteers to serve as a Full Member or Alternate on various Boards and Commissions including, but not limited to:

- Beautification Committee
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- Zoning Board of Appeals

Experience welcome, but not required. Must be a registered voter in Woodstock. Please visit the town website at www.woodstockct.gov to learn more about these and other Boards and Commissions. Interested candidates may contact the Selectmen’s Office at selectmen@woodstockct.gov.

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WOODSTOCK — Roseland Cottage, in Woodstock, Connecticut once again offers its popular Twilight Lawn Concert series. The first concert is scheduled for Friday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m. (rain date Sunday, July 14) with the powerful ten piece horn band Souls on Fire playing iconic music of the 1970s, featuring music of Chicago, Tower of Power, Stevie Wonder and more of your favorites. Grace Gourmet Food

On Saturday, June 29, at 6 p.m. St. Luke's Steel Band will perform a concert of Caribbean music. St. Luke's band started when New Haven's historic St. Luke's Church purchased a set of used steel pans in 1999. The group includes musicians from the West Indies, Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago.

The band's achievements include an Artist's Award from the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, and two gold medals at the PANorama Caribbean Music Fests in Virginia Beach. Their repertoire includes soca, calypso, reggae, classical, sacred, jazz, popular and island folk music. Main Street Gelato will be on site for this concert, which is jointly sponsored by Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut.

The Flamings will return to the Pink House with their all-female swing band on July 26 at 6:30 p.m. (rain date Aug. 2). Bring a pink flamingo or just dress in pink! Join us on the grounds of Roseland Cottage as we flock the Pink House! Anyone with a flamingo or dressed in predominantly pink clothes will be entered in a special drawing—must be present to win! Grace Gourmet food truck will

The series wraps up on Friday, Aug. 9 at 6:30 p.m. (rain date Sunday, August 11) with popular local band The Triple Double. Triple Double brings a folky, mellow sound to covers of popular hits from the '60s to the '90s, along with a few original songs. Their perfectly blended vocals and tight harmonies are complemented by guitar and bass for a silky-smooth take on an eclectic mix of recognizable songs.

Roseland Cottage is located at 556 Route 169 in Woodstock.

POMFRET — State Sen. Mae Flexer and State Rep. Pat Boyd (D-Pomfret) are welcoming State Bond Commission approval of more than a million dollars for upgrades to the Pomfret Public Library.

On Friday, June 7, the State Bond Commission approved \$1,011,297 for alterations at the Pomfret Public Library to improve existing space with the addition of meeting and activity rooms. The state grant will pay for half of the total project cost of \$2,022,594.

The Pomfret Public Library was built in 1739 and was the first public library in eastern Connecticut. The library receives more than 10,000 visitors a year and hosts a variety of programs every week that attract more than 2,000 attendees.

“A library is the heart of any community, and that has been true in Pomfret for almost 300 years. This more than million-dollar state investment will allow this dynamic library to expand the incredible opportunities that are available to everyone in the community, from toddlers to seniors,” Flexer said. «This project will be transformative for the Pomfret Public Library.»

"The Pomfret Public Library expansion is a critical investment in our community, helping to transform it into a modern community and library space," said Boyd. "I want to extend my thanks to Governor Lamont and members of

the State Bond Commission for considering the project and approving funding for it. A library with updated technology and amenities will provide a more connected and enriching experience to residents.”

"This project comes at a crucial time," said First Selectwoman Maureen Nicholson. "The need for connection is growing as we become more dependent on remote interactions. Pomfret's Public Library provides a variety of opportunities for residents to meet and socialize in person in a time of growing isolation. With the space this addition will provide, our community will be enriched with greater opportunities and expanded spaces to come together. When we gather, our community fabric grows stronger, our residents feel connected, and our lives are enhanced."

WOODSTOCK — The Benson-Flugel Post 111 American Legion, Inc. invites the public to our free open house and breakfast on June 22 from 8-10 a.m. Come to our post, located at 22 Stone Bridge Rd., Woodstock, to see what we do for our veterans and the community and see our newly renovated post home.

We are always looking for new members and due to the Legion Act of 2019, all veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941 are eligible to join.

PUTNAM — Cub Scout Pack 21, of Putnam, will host a spaghetti and meatball dinner, including salad and garlic bread, this Saturday, June 22, from 2 until 5

p.m. at the Albert J. Breault VFW Post 1523, 207 Providence St., Putnam. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under. Take-out or eat-in. There will also be a bake sale and raffles to benefit our program. Tickets are available at the VFW Post and at Joseph's Jewelers, 153 School St., Putnam, or by calling (860) 928-7241. Please leave a message when you call. Proceeds will benefit the Cub Scout Pack 21 2024 Summer Camp Fund.



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Why vinyl is making a comeback

In an era where digital streaming services dominate the music industry, it's fascinating to observe the resurgence of vinyl records. What is it about these relics of the past that continues to captivate new generations and rekindle nostalgia in older ones?

Vinyl records, once thought to be obsolete with the advent of CDs and digital downloads, have experienced a renaissance over the past decade. Sales have soared, with records outselling CDs for the first time in decades.

One of the key reasons behind this comeback is the tangible and tactile experience that vinyl offers. In a world where music is often reduced to intangible files on a smartphone, vinyl records provide a physical connection to the music. The process of selecting a record, carefully placing it on the turntable, and gently lowering the needle creates a ritualistic experience that digital formats simply cannot replicate.

The sound quality of vinyl is another compelling factor. Audiophiles argue that vinyl records offer a warmer, richer sound compared to the compressed audio files of digital music. The analog nature of vinyl captures the nuances and imperfections of the original recording, providing a listening experience that many find more authentic and immersive.

Moreover, the artwork and packaging of vinyl records add an aesthetic value that digital formats lack. Album covers on vinyl are often considered works of art in themselves, with their larger size allowing for more detailed and impactful designs. The liner notes, lyric sheets, and additional artwork included in vinyl releases offer a deeper insight into the artist's vision and creativity, making the listening experience more comprehensive.

The resurgence of vinyl is also driven by a growing desire for a more intentional and mindful approach to music consumption. In an age of instant gratification and endless streaming options, vinyl encourages listeners to slow down and savor the music. It demands attention and engagement, as flipping the record and changing sides becomes a part of the listening journey. This intentionality is a refreshing change from the passive and often distracted way we consume music today.

Record stores, once thought to be dying out, are thriving again, becoming hubs for music enthusiasts to gather, discover, and discuss music. Record Store Day, an annual event celebrating independent record stores, has grown in popularity, drawing crowds of eager fans looking for exclusive releases and rare finds.

Vinyl records, with their crackles and pops, their weight and presence, are more than just a medium for music—they are timeless.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Happy birthday, Mr. Trump!

To the Editor:

Today [June 14], former President Donald Trump is marking his 78th birthday. We should hope that he enjoys the day, relishing his family, his friends, and his good fortune.

Meanwhile, as we're thinking of birthdays, it's a fair time to think about reproductive rights as they stand today, and as they will evolve in a second Trump administration.

As everyone knows, the U.S. Supreme Court two years ago issued the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* that repealed *Roe v. Wade*. *Dobbs* took away a woman's right to make abortion decisions privately with her doctor and left that health choice subject to the whims of state legislators. Many here in Connecticut and in other blue states assume that abortion rights will always remain intact here, as we have a legislature that would never curtail a woman's freedom to choose.

That's a false sense of security. Many pro-lifers support a national abortion ban similar to those that have passed in states such as Alabama and Texas. With GOP majorities in both houses, should that occur, a reelected Trump could well sign a national ban that would supersede the privileges afforded by the laws of any given state.

Well, at least, contraception would still be safe, right? Oh no. The right to contraception was established in 1965 in a case called *Griswold v. Connecticut*. In his concurring opinion in the *Dobbs* decision, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas said this: "[I]n future cases, we should reconsider all of

this Court's substantive due process precedents, including *Griswold v. Connecticut* [b]ecause any substantive due process decision is "demonstrably erroneous [and]. ... we have a duty to "correct the error" established in those precedents . . ."

You didn't think they'd outlaw abortion, did you? So watch out when they tell you that the day may come when your doctor can no longer prescribe you a contraceptive, nor your drugstore sell it to you legally.

They don't even have to wait for the Supreme Court to act. In 1873, Congress passed what is known as The Comstock Act, that forbids mailing anything related to contraception or abortion. Over the next fifty years, hundreds who dared violate that statute wound up in prison, and targets of prosecution turned into suicides in at least fifteen documented instances. Prosecutions under the Act ground to a halt when the zealot Mr. Comstock finally met his maker, but the Act is still on the books and enforceable. Do you think Trump would not appoint as Attorney General a modern Comstock bent on enforcing the Act again? Do you think Clarence Thomas and his allies would strike down the Comstock Act?

I sincerely hope that the former president enjoys his day today. I would not wish upon him or anyone else the misery that I fear would visit many if he is granted a second term.

JOHN D. BOLAND
POMFRET CENTER

What a show

To the Editor:

So Trump had the gall to show his face in Washington again, the scene of his Jan. 6 crime, one of many. Of course, all his lapdogs surrounded him just to be seen breathing the same air.

MSNBC (thats right) showed some clips of these members of the Law and Order Party condemning him for his actions, or inaction, after the riot he instigated. Then switching over to the lovefest, Trump is seen leaving his soapbox to rousing applause, hugs, and kisses. Almost too much to bear.

The scene of these so called adults acting like 5 year old children fawning and debasing themselves over a convicted felon and sexual offender was staggering.

The fact of the matter is it had to have been all an act. They realize the truth in what they are doing: living a lie. They despise him in their hearts just as any rational person would in seeing what he is. They threw away their moral compass into the swamp where Trump dwells.

After realizing Trump still held sway over his hapless public, for reasons unknown, they then made their bed. The very thought of their voters still willing to follow the mentally and morally bankrupt individual meant that, unless they fall into this pathetic line, they may soon lose their voting base. It would be goodbye to the positions of political power they are loath to relinquish.

Watch as they try at least to get a glance from their master, a nod to their phony devotion. He probably hasn't a clue to what is

actually going through their minds. Except for Greene, who is a lost soul.

Just think how someone could choose to let our country fall to an avowed dictator just to keep the perks of a government title. Human frailty at its worse. Ask Liz Cheney or Adam Kinzinger about courage.

I will keep beating this dead horse to dust by defending the memory of all the brave men and women who fought and died to defend our democracy. These Republicans would trade all of this for a parking space?

Now Ms. Burdick, I would like to close my part of our dialogue by responding to a few of your well crafted statements.

As you may have read above, I choose to get my information from MSNBC. The reason is I enjoy listening to intelligent commentators bringing what I believe is the truth to my attention. So, no brainwashing.

My intention for calling you ...lady was strictly out of courtesy. Allow me to explain: A gentlelady is defined as a woman of gentle disposition. Maybe you would have preferred gentlewoman? That is also a woman who is polite and well mannered. No insult intended.

Then again, as a member of the fairer sex who choses to support a man who sees women as a usable object, perhaps I should have just said "Hey, you."

Finally, I would have no qualms about helping President Joseph R. Biden, a man of character, as his seeing-eye person. I would even say woof on occasion.

All the best.

RICK ROCHELEAU
DANIELSON

A well deserved honor

To the Editor:

Chamber Executive Director Elle-Jordyn Sherman has hit another home run at the Nccc annual award ceremony.

Emerging Leader of the Year Award was presented to Tayler Sazhin of NOW - Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, honoring her innovative spirit and commitment to shaping a prosperous future for Northeastern Connecticut. She is ultra dedicated to the health and well being of Northeast Connecticut youth.

Congratulations to Robin Dear Fillmore on being honored as Businesswoman of the Year by the Northeast Chamber of Commerce! This prestigious recognition is a testament to your remarkable journey, from an All-American gymnast to a successful business leader and mentor.

Your athletic prowess set the stage for an exemplary career, but it's your enduring dedication as a gymnastics coach and educator over the past four decades that truly distinguishes you. You have shaped countless

young athletes, instilling in them the values of discipline, and excellence that defined your own career. Your leadership has not only fostered talent but also inspired a culture of hard work and achievement within the gymnastics community.

The transformative impact you've had extends beyond the gym. Your commitment to mentoring and guiding young minds has contributed significantly to their personal and professional growth, making you an inspiration in both athletics and business. Your award as Businesswoman of the Year acknowledges not just your achievements but also the lasting influence you've had on your community.

Robin's journey epitomizes excellence, perseverance, and leadership. Your legacy as a gymnast, coach, and businesswoman is a source of pride to our community and this accolade is a well-deserved recognition of your unwavering dedication and outstanding contributions.

MIKE BOGDANSKI
PUTNAM

My opinion on Trump is based on observation

To the Editor:

Letters in the Villager are under the heading "Opinion," and rightfully so. How those opinions are formed is where the big differences are found. To quote the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts."

My very negative opinion of Donald Trump doesn't come from talk radio, social media, or bias cable networks. It comes from my own observations over the last 50 years. Starting in the 1970s, those of us who lived near New York City were subjected to reports of Trump's misdeeds almost every time we turned on the TV or picked up a newspaper. He was viewed as a cartoon-like con artist by every-

one I knew, regardless of their political preferences. His sleazy and corrupt business practices in New York usually involved equally sleazy politicians or organized crime figures. His personal life was another never ending "soap opera." He's only gotten worse with age.

Back then, if you had suggested that Trump could become president someday, the laughter would have been deafening. But here we are -- Trump scammed his way into the White House in 2016, and he almost dismantled our democracy. We can't give him another shot at it.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Friends are the best medicine

Friendship is being prescribed like a miracle pill that can alleviate what ails us. Torn between the promises of eternal life and immediate cessation of gastric distress from pharmaceutical sponsors of "60 Minutes" on Sunday night, and dire warnings from purists that all medicine is evil, what else is left? We can exercise, give up alcohol, practice intermittent fasting, breathe and keep breathing and make friends. Keep friends, too.

We can't pick our relatives, neighbors, work associates or classmates, but we can pick our friends. Becoming someone's friend is a voluntary action and it makes life so much better, even in ways we can't quite measure, because friendship is something everyone wants. Articles I've read compare a lack of friendship to being as harmful as smoking a pack of cigarettes a day. I think the comparison of lacking friends and cigarettes is an awkward one, but it does underscore the seriousness of being the solo kid on the playground. Awful.

With luck, most of us make our first friend before we are five. My first friend, with whom I have lunch every year, loved kittens, bike rides and following my lead in whatever imaginary world I hatched up. She was patient and her ego didn't need to be stroked. I can recall how she smelled, gritted her teeth when trying something difficult and giggled when a remark struck her as funny. Along with my fox terrier, she taught me lessons in friendship that lasted. We weren't especially similar as children and we aren't as adults, but a special bond linked us then and it was an early gift.

In elementary school came the painful moment when it was clear that boys and girls weren't supposed to be friends. Boys had more freedom and seemed more fearless, full of fun, but one day the pleasure of building forts in the woods and stomping through swamps ended. Other kids turned the friendships into girlfriend-boyfriend relationships and that ruined them. Later, I formed wonderful friendships with people who don't identify rigidly by gender, which enriches my life enormously.

For many years, my brother operated several large manufacturing plants. When he offered a person a job after they had been vetted by the HR department, he asked them to describe their experiences in high school. He believes that our self-image in those years is pivotal. Having at least one friend can make adolescent years not just bearable but enjoyable. I'm in touch with several friends from that era of my life. We grateful to have grown together.

I'll go on a long hike in the fall with my best friend from college. We met at orientation and knew immediately that we would be friends. Through a couple of marriages (hers), a pair of children for each of us, careers, ups and downs, we can still pick up a conversation wherever we left off. Although I was a bride's maid in nine weddings of college friends, most of us lost track of each other and never connected again. I'm grateful the first one stuck.

Life as an adult would be dismal without friends. A close friend was 30 years older than I, another merely 20. I am 20 years older than several current friends. Age isn't especially important. Most important are a precious, generous handful of people with whom I share anything. They are a lifeline to me. They listen when I am tedious and tell me the truth. They are as sustaining as sunshine. Their company makes life more vivid and more amusing. The exercise of making and keeping friends is the best medicine.



NANCY WEISS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brainwashed by right-wing media

To the Editor:

It's pretty rich that Brenda Burdick should accuse critics of convicted felon and rapist Donald Trump of being brainwashed in the June 14 Villager. In her letter, she uses many of the devices employed by the Trump media to brain-wash its consumers- lies, false equivalencies, amateurishly edited videos and sophomoric insults of opponents' physical appearance.

Is there any wonder? Ms. Burdick seems to believe that a couple of Fox News shows, that she highly recommends, reveal the objective truth. That idea is laughable given Fox News' history of lying about the 2020 election and paying out \$787 million for that lie with further lawsuits pending. Maybe readers will recall that right-wing hero Tucker Carlson was fired by Fox over his role and other Fox executives lost their jobs.

Bad Democrats are why Republicans win elections

To The Editor:

Here's to hoping this little blurb isn't buried in too many long-winded articles about Donald Trump Donald Trump Donald Trump, but I'd like to be the voice of reason while people in my own party can't stop writing long-winded wastes of time regurgitating stuff people can easily get in a few clicks on MSNBC's YouTube channel. Bonus points when local Democratic Town Committees are stupid enough to repost these blurbs which already brought nothing new to the table, preaching to the choir as usual instead of trying to relate to regular Joes who don't nerd out on C-SPAN, CT-N, and WINY's Facebook page 24/7.

At this point, everyone knows that Donald Trump is a convicted felon. He should have leaned into the meme when he had his little fling with Stormy Daniels instead of trying to cover it up. I'm not here to showcase the usual problems with Democrats being out of touch elitists who live in ivory towers and can't be practical about things though.

The truth is that the two major parties are like those times in the private sector when we see companies and sometimes an entire industry pop up and do well when something else is crap. The success of those businesses depends entirely on whether or not the other side gets their act together. Satellite TV is one example, doing well when cable was a bloated mess, and now they're either in someone else's portfolio or risking filing for bankruptcy in today's cord-cutting world. Tesla was great with the Roadster when other electric cars had no mainstream appeal. Now they struggle as numerous more established competitors finally start making decent electric cars. Apple did great when they had something nobody else had, but then devolved into a money sucking boutique brand that makes techies like me annoyed when they're not on top of their game.

Then there's the Democrats, sitting pretty in a position where elections are theirs to lose. Good luck getting them to acknowledge this though as they bumble about with weak candidates and a persistent inability to look like they're down to Earth about anything, persistently feeding Republican narratives about them even though the Republicans themselves have nothing good to offer and are simply trying to save face.

What even are the Republicans these days? The GOP has been ideologically bankrupt for decades. The reason Donald Trump is so popular is because he's the first person in a long time that a lot of them could win something with, even if it drove them nuts in the process. It's like that person we may know or hear about that is single for a very long time and then ends up in a very bad marriage because they rush to the altar with the first person that will actually go out with them.

The Republicans have suffered badly when it comes to coming up with hot-shot leaders like Bill Clinton or Barack Obama over the years. Before Trump they were propping up Mitt Romney, a moderate that conservatives used to laugh at, until he became their guy. Then John McCain, another one that conservatives laughed at, until he became their guy. George W. Bush had some conservatism to him as an evangelical Christian, so the party of Reagan's sense of direction pretty much crashed with the 2008 financial crisis.

Has it recovered since? I don't know. You tell me. Being a Republican nowadays is about pretending to support morality while bending over backwards for a fat old rich guy who's had multiple wives and now, as we've seen with the felony convictions, flings with spicy adult stars. Or how about supposedly wanting more of the free market while instantly hating green technology or electric cars? How about screaming "America First!" while instantly hating Covid vaccines from Moderna, a company based out of Massachusetts?

Worst of all, how about Republicans tooting around with Confederate flags or Trump flags on their trucks instead of The Stars And Stripes? Yeah that's right folks. Being a Republican is no longer about showing off the flag that countless people with the guts to take a bullet for this country fought and died for. Let's replace it with a flag representing a bunch of rich Southerners suckering people into fighting for slavery, or a flag about a 21st century rich guy suckering people into attacking police officers and

In Ms. Burdick's world, somehow Trump's 34 felony convictions equal some unspecified Democratic criminals in New York, none of whom who are running to be President of the United States. And, of course, no defense of Trump would be complete without at least one lie, which in this case is that all the jurors in Trump's felony trial were Democrats.

Finally, if Fox News viewers ever tire of seeing President Trump stumble on a stairway, maybe they should watch and read real news media that don't intentionally lie, and when it does get something wrong, makes a correction. They might actually hear the un-American, racist, and often unhinged things Trump is saying.

Sincerely,

BILLY G. TAYLOR
KILLINGLY

Masterful incoherence

To the Editor:

OK. Yes, Biden fluffs a word now and them. But then again, who doesn't? We all do, but we don't have a national press corps or an entire political party out head hunting for every gaff.

So let's look at his unworthy opponent. Trump not only slurs his words, but he can't even put together a cogent sentence. To wit – a recent quote from your fearful leader you need to read twice to fully appreciate his incoherence:

“Religion is such a great thing, it's... so it keeps..you know, there's something to be good about you want to be good you want to, it's so important, I don't know...if it's explained right...I don't

know, if I am explaining it right, I don't know... if I am explaining it right, you know, you want to be good, you want to go to Heaven, when you have something like that, you want to go to Heaven, OK? So you want to go to Heaven, so if we don't have Heaven, OK, you almost say, what's the reason why I have to be good, so let's not be good; what difference does it make?”

His eloquence and mastery of the English language leaves us in awe. And let's not overlook the lucid presentation of his solid religious beliefs. Neither you nor I can make this crap up. We're not that disconnected from reality.

STEPHEN ETZEL
PUTNAM

Local students named to President's List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — A total of 812 students have been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Spring 2024 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Spring 2024 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester; at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized.

Logan Gagnon of Thompson is a Business Administration major at Plymouth State.

Hannah Mason of Thompson is a Criminal Justice major at Plymouth State.

Matthew Siegmund of North Grosvenordale is an Exercise and Sport Physiology major at Plymouth State.

About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates, and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. The Plymouth State Cluster Learning Model emphasizes open, integrative, and project-based experiences. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire. To learn more about Plymouth State University, visit www.plymouth.edu.



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Courtesy

TOP STUDENTS HONORED BY PUTNAM ROTARY CLUB

As is tradition, the Putnam Rotary Club recently honored the valedictorians and salutatorians from its five-town service area. In receiving their plaques, each student told the club members a little about themselves, where they were headed and what they intend to major in. From left: Rotarian Kristen Willis, Valedictorian-Salutatorian Committee chair; Amanda Kelly, club president; Pomfret School valedictorian Delia Bousquet; The Woodstock Academy salutatorian Sean Gasperini; Woodstock Academy valedictorian Kayleigh Murray; Tourtellotte Memorial High School salutatorian Kaylee Beck; Tourtellotte valedictorian Eric Levesque; Putnam High School valedictorian Savannah Loiselle; Putnam High salutatorian Lily Goyette. (Not pictured: Pomfret School salutatorian Simiao Li, Marianapolis salutatorian Violete Torres and valedictorian Bridget MacDonough; Putnam Science Academy salutatorian Christian Chu and valedictorian Tyler Hansen).

Day Kimball Hospital hosts heartwarming wedding ceremony



Courtesy

Holly Rzepa and Doug Rogers, Day Kimball Health staff members, were married at a ceremony at Day Kimball Hospital on Friday, May 31.

PUTNAM — Love was in the air at Day Kimball Hospital as two dedicated staff members, Holly Rzepa and Doug Rogers, tied the knot on Friday, May 31. The ceremony, officiated by DKH Chaplain Reverend Jonathan Scott, took place in the hospital courtyard where perfect weather provided a beautiful backdrop for family, friends, and co-workers to attend the ceremony.

Holly Rzepa, a cook in Nutritional Services since June 2018, and Doug Rogers, a housekeeper in Environmental Services since February 2023, wanted a simple and meaningful celebration with those who have supported their journey. Choosing the hospital was a natural decision as they both value the sense of closeness and support from their colleagues.

“Most of our friends work here, so we thought this would be a way to include all of them,” the couple shared.

Holly first noticed Doug during his workouts at Owen Tarr Park in Putnam, and the couple officially met through a mutual friend at Holly’s 30th birthday celebration. After 10 years together, Doug proposed to Holly

on Christmas Eve 2023 at “The Big Ornament” in Rotary Park, making for a memorable proposal.

“We are thrilled to celebrate the union of Holly and Doug,” said Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Health. “Their story is a testament to the sense of community and support that defines our hospital. This event was truly a collaborative effort. Our staff came together to decorate the courtyard, Nutritional Services provided flowers and a post-ceremony breakfast for the couple and their families, and staff and patients cheered Holly and Doug on from the windows during the ceremony while our chaplain performed the ceremony. We were happy to host their nuptials and wish them a lifetime of happiness together.”

Working together has strengthened their bond, even though they are in different departments and rarely see each other during shifts. Doug has enjoyed watching Holly grow in her role at the hospital. When she started at DKH, she was in the dish room, then moved to cook, head cook and now she is the lead on the weekends she works. Their colleagues have

been incredibly supportive, ensuring they share the same days off to spend more time together. This has allowed them to travel and enjoy beach trips, further enriching their relationship.

The happy couple has some advice for other couples planning on getting married: live in the now and don’t postpone it. As they look forward to their future together, Holly and Doug are most excited about making more cherished memories together.

About Day Kimball Health
Day Kimball Health is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is daykimball.org.

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SENIORS SING TO SENIORS

Courtesy

Twice a year, the Mansfield Senior Center Chorus takes to the road to share their music. They travel to sites in Windham, Mansfield, Killingly, Hebron and Lebanon where they visit nursing homes, assisted living facilities and Senior Centers. Programs feature a variety of music, and the audience is encouraged to sing along. This year, a former member, 100 year old Bob Guttay, a D Day Veteran and resident of Creamery Brook, performed a duet with current member Stu Sidney, age 83. Two of our members rocked to a Beatles Medley. The chorus is also home to Howard Drescher, a composer and musician. Together with Bruce Kay who accompanied him on the fiddle, he performed one of his own songs. Members, who must be at least 55 years old, perform under the direction of Dr. Charles Houmad and are accompanied by Nancy DuCharme.



MASCOT
continued from page A1

currently wear uniforms adorned with just the town's name. Supporters of the change feel that the students are being put in an unfair position of having to answer to other schools for their defense or opposition of the mascot that represents them on the field.

The recommendation to change the mascot was presented by ad hoc committee chair and Board of Education member Kevin Marcoux, a Democrat who served as Athletic Director at KHS during the initial name change. Marcoux cited past letters from the Nipmuck Tribe and emailed support from the majority of coaches at KHS asking for the district to move on and choose a new name.

"The letter from the KHS Athletic Department was signed by 14 head coaches which represents 20 of the 23 athletic offerings at the school as some of the head coaches are in multiple sports. In the letter, coaches outline several instances when students have been the target of ridicule from opposing players and

spectators due to the controversy surrounding the current mascot. It places them in a difficult position to either defend the mascot or to defend their stance on wanting to change mascots, neither of which is a position we should be putting our students in. The coaches have asked that the current mascot be retired and that a new mascot be selected," said Marcoux.

Republican board member Kyle Napierata made the point that the letters from the Nipmuck tribe were not new documents and that other than the email from the coaches there was little new public input provided for the board to consider. Like most aspects of the debate, the argument over public opinion was split along party lines with Republicans saying their conversations with citizens have shown support for the mascot and Democrats saying they've been told there needs to be change. Members of both parties acknowledged there may be a communication bias in these opinions and that both sides should hear from the public at large. The idea of holding a public survey on the mas-

cot was briefly discussed and supported by members of both parties, however that did not result in an official motion.

Some Republicans board members, such as Kelly Martin, made the point that the name change was being poorly prioritized and that the grant money it's costing the town isn't even earmarked for education.

"Since the new board took over, we've had one curriculum meeting, one policy meeting, two bullying meetings, and four mascot meetings. Where are the priorities? During a reassessment year when taxpayers must choose between housing, food, and medicine, the board is prioritizing changing the team's name imposing yet another financial burden on taxpayers. The \$94,000 goes to the town, it does not go to the school system. The timing and the intent are both flawed," Martin said.

Building off Martin's statement, Republicans

questioned the cost of making the change which Marcoux said would be minimal as refinishing the gym floors, buying new uniforms and other related costs are already part of the annual athletic budgets. He argued the only major cost would be \$250 to design a new logo.

In defending the move, Democrats said they felt it was simply time to move on from the controversial mascot, and that the debate has negatively affected the image of the town. Misty Murdock, who was one of the Democrats elected to the board last year, said the district has already found it difficult to bring in new talent due to many controversies, including but not limited to the mascot. Board Vice Chair Danny Rovero, who was elected alongside Murdock in 2023 on the Democratic ticket, acknowledged his frustration with the state for withholding funding, but said he feels that the sentiment over the mascot has shifted, and that

people are ready to move on.

"So \$94,000 — we talk about it's going to go to the town, not the Board of Education, but no matter who it goes to, \$94,000 is a lot of cabbage. I wouldn't mind getting it, I can tell you that," said Rovero. "I talked to a lot of people about changing the name, and some of them who were very against changing the name last time now have no problem changing the name provided you have some sort of a ceremony that puts the Redmen to rest."

Board Chair Susan Lannon, who admitted she wasn't born or raised in Killingly and moved there as an adult, said she admired the pride Killingly takes in its mascot although she feels this is "unique" to the town as many move on from their high school teams as they grow up. Acknowledging that pride, she admitted that being involved in the decision was "humbling"; however, she also felt it was time to retire

the Redmen name.

"I've met people who support it, who love it, who are ready to move on because it's the time and the place. Whether or not you loved this mascot when it was your turn, it's not your turn right now. It's the students' turn, and they've told us in prior surveys that they want the mascot to be changed," said Lannon. "For me, it's truly not about me. It's about the children and the money equally. As a town we cannot turn away, continuously, \$94,000 but also the children have told us they want a mascot, and we deserve to give them one."

The roll call vote saw a 5-4 split with every Democrat voting in favor of the motion and every Republican voting against it. The result will instruct the Superintendent to develop a process to select a new mascot to officially retire the Redmen.

SANFORD
continued from page A1

Woodstock Academy's history and complete a 25-year career in education. During his time as Head of School, Sandford highlighted Woodstock Academy's endurance through a pandemic, expansion to a second campus after inheriting the former Hyde School property, and the renovation of the Academy Building as well as significant increases in endowments.

In a letter signed by Board of Trustees Chair Christine Swenson, she thanked

Sandford for his commitment to the school and his work enhancing the institution.

"We set out to find a Head of School who was a visionary educational leader, with superb soft skills who would embody the values of the institution and would live and breathe The Academy. We are tremendously grateful that Chris accepted the challenge and joined us on what has been an amazing journey. Collaboration was his guiding principle in the pursuit of new opportunities or resolution of challenges. His natural ability to combine big picture perspective with detailed execution, genuine caring, and tireless dedication have been truly trans-

formative and will leave a lasting impact. Most importantly, Chris has been a fearless advocate for our students, placing their benefit and well-being at the forefront of his efforts," said Swenson. "We are forever indebted to Chris for his service and dedication to The Academy and while we are sad to see him go, we wish him all the best in his retirement. He will leave The Academy exceptionally well-prepared to continue progressing forward."

Swenson said she will personally oversee the search for a new Head of School as the Academy enters its final year under Sandford's leadership this fall.

Members of the public are invited to

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0141-0158

Replacement of Bridge No. 03474, Route 200 over Interstate 395

Town of Thompson

Monday, July 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Register: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTThompson141-158>

YouTube Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/@ctdotofficial/streams>

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to address the existing structural deficiencies of Bridge No. 03474 with a full bridge replacement.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Construction is anticipated to begin Fall 2026 based on the availability of funding and approval of permit(s). The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$13,500,000. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 80 percent Federal funds and 20 percent State funds.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-w5wDBcORU-6qiYv8nHTPA](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-w5wDBcORU-6qiYv8nHTPA). Registration is required to participate. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions by July 15, 2024, to: DOTProject0141-0158@ct.gov and 860-594-2020 or Francisco T. Fadul, Project Manager (860-594-2078; Francisco.Fadul@ct.gov).

ACCESSIBILITY

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist: <https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpimarchive>

Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number 877-853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 853 4546 4567. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Isuf Vlashi, Project Engineer (860-594-3389; Isuf.Vlashi@ct.gov).

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
announces Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — A total of 2,226 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) achieved the criteria required for the university's spring 2024 Deans List. The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level

Worcester State University
announces Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Worcester State University congratulates the following students on being named to the Dean's List for the spring semester of 2024.

Putnam
Jillian R Gray, Grace M Ortiz, Abby L St. Martin

Woodstock
Rebecca L Jarvis, Nathaniel H Sarette

of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real" said Professor Arthur C. Heinricher. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

The following students were named to the Dean's List for Spring 2024:

Meredith Bergendahl, of Pomfret Center, class of 2027, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology
John Peabody, of Woodstock, class of 2025, majoring in Biomedical Engineering
Connor Quinn, of Woodstock, class of 2025, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering
Zachary Roethlein, of Pomfret Center, class of 2026, majoring in Aerospace Engineering
Brooke Peloquin of Putnam, class of 2025, majoring in Mechanical Engineering
John Steglitz of Thompson, class of 2025, majoring in Biomedical Engineering
About Worcester Polytechnic Institute
WPI, a global leader in proj-

ect-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

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A mid-year outlook on 2024 interest rates, market performance and more

This has been a record-breaking year in the stock markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average crossed the 40,000 milestone in mid-May continuing this amazingly strong bull market rally. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq have also risen to new record levels—not the eye-catching, round-number variety, but records nonetheless.

The stock markets’ latest push higher was fueled by increased conviction that the Federal Reserve has engineered a soft landing. Earnings seem reasonably strong, most everyone who wants a job has one, and wages are rising. It’s widely believed that the Fed’s interest rate hiking cycle has concluded and it will begin a rate cutting cycle some time over the next year.

From the start of the year through May 22, Nasdaq has jumped 11.9 percent, the S&P 500 has gained 11.3 percent, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average has added 5.3 percent.

As we enter the second half of 2024, it seems likely that large cap growth stocks will continue to outperform and bonds will offer both income and diversification. That said, investors should take a moment to rebalance portfolios because future returns are never guaranteed.

Large growth still dominates

Large capitalization growth stocks have continued to vastly outperform other styles of equity investments. The iShares S&P 500 Growth ETF has risen 26.5 percent over the past year through May 23, far exceeding 17.9 percent one-year gain in the iShares S&P 500 Value ETF.

Large companies have benefitted from trends like artificial intelligence, which require substantial amounts of capital to build out the necessary technology. Small companies may not have the same financial resources that their larger counterparts enjoy and often pay higher interest rates on

borrowings. Consider that 41 percent of small-cap companies were unprofitable in the first quarter, while only 7 percent of large-cap companies were unprofitable during that period, JPMorgan Asset Management reports.

As large-cap growth stocks have outperformed, their representation in the broader indexes has grown. Over the past decade, the percentage of large-cap stocks in the Russell 3000 Index has risen from 50 up to 73 percent as of March 31. Conversely, small-capitalization stocks have shrunk from 12 percent of the index 10 years ago to 4.5 percent at the end of last quarter; the folks at Commonwealth Financial Network® report.

Investing at home

Most international equity markets have underperformed the US stock markets and we expect that they will continue to do so going forward. Many of the international markets face geopolitical risks. Wars between Russia

and Ukraine, Israel and Hamas and hostile barbs traded between the US and China makes us more comfortable investing closer to home.

Don’t forget to rebalance

As we all know, the past performance of stock markets is not a guaranty that they enjoy positive future returns. So, it’s always important to rebalance portfolios, trimming investments that have had the best performance and using the proceeds to increase exposure to areas that have underperformed. Doing so once or twice a year is often a good practice to ensure a portfolio doesn’t become over-exposed to any one area.

Given the sharp outperformance in equities and the losses in the bond market last year, now might be an opportune time to increase a portfolio’s exposure to the bond market. If interest rates fall modestly in the months to come, as we expect will occur, bonds should once again provide investors

with income and the benefit of diversification.

Talking with an investment advisor about rebalancing strategies can be vitally important to your investment portfolio’s performance today and in the future. That’s why at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky our team considers the entire financial picture for each client as part of our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ process. If you’d like help planning your financial strategy, request a complimentary consultation on our website at whzwealth.com or call us at (860) 928-2341, and experience what we strive to provide to each of our clients: Absolute Confidence. Unwavering Partnership. For Life.

Authored by Principal/Managing Partner Laurence Hale AAMS, CRPS®. Diversification does not assure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets, and diversification can-



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LAURENCE HALE
INVESTMENT ADVISER

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The Class of ’24...1924

After reading my June 7 article on old plants, Marilyn Labbe sent me a rhyme she said that she learned while growing up. “This is the rhyme they used when planting corn, and other seeds. One for the blackbird, one for the crow, One for the Grub Worm, One to Grow.” I had never heard it, but perhaps it was a regional saying.

In reference to last week’s article about the flag, I received an email on June 14 with a little more on the topic. “Some historians attribute the design of the first flag to Francis Hopkinson, a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence, who also played a role in designing seals for various departments within the U.S. government. In 1780, Hopkinson sought payment from the Board of Admiralty for his design of the flag of the United States of America. However, his petition for payment was denied on the grounds that ‘he was not the only one consulted’ on the design.” I wonder who else was consulted. I didn’t realize that his petition for payment was denied. (www.history.com/news/did-betsy-ross-really-make-the-first-american-flag?cmpid=email-hist-inside-history-onequestion-2024-0614-06142024&om_rid=)

Since June is the month of graduations, I thought I’d look at who was in the graduating class at Killingly High School 100 years ago. Fortunately, the Killingly Historical Center is the repository for the Alumni files so I had access to a 1924 Killonian. The class members were listed under Personalities. Dana B. Blakely-“Donnie.” Motto. “Never work if you can find anything else to do. ““He’s one of those quiet kind, you know--when a teacher is within two feet. And STUDY! Man does he study...” “However, Dana has found time to distinguish himself as an athlete.” The little sketch accompanying his profile is of a guy with his nose buried in a book. Earle N. Bassett. Motto: Do what you can and what you can’t do, trust to

luck.” Anita Berthiume. “Motto. If you want a thing done, do it yourself.” “She is the youngest member of the class.” Laurie Beeney. “Motto. Forget the past and think of the future.” “Laurie is one of the girls with a lively school spirit.” Leo Bousquet. Nickname-Biscuit. Motto. “Never do today what can be done tomorrow.” Winifed A. Brown. Motto. “On with the dance.” “Winnie may be cited as one of the classes best dancers, and to the envy of all the terpsichoreans.” (of or related to dancing). Margaret R. Burton. Motto. “Be good sweet maid and let who will be clever.” Dramatic cast, 3-4; Orchestra, 1-2-3. “In her junior year Margaret came out as quite an actress, and from athletics she is ‘the thing.’” Fleurette Boulaine. Motto. “Knowledge is power.” State Champion Typist, Gold Medal, 4. Orchestra, 1-2-3. “She is also quite a violinist.” Elizabeth M. Caffrey-“Bessie. Motto. “A poor excuse is better than none.” “Wh-o-w! Just on time; 9.29 7/8.” William E. Carpenter. “Bill”. Motto-“Laugh and the world laughs with you, but stay after school alone.” Wilbur W. Cornell-Wib. Motto-“Don’t overstudy; it doesn’t pay.” Mildred E. Coddington-“Milly.” Motto-“Trifles make perfection but perfection is no trifle.” Honor Essay, 4. “She greets everyone with a cheery ‘good morning’ and sets the whole world on a sunny path.” Samuel Conklin-“Tam Tam” “Sam”. Motto-“People call him lovin’ Sam.” Football, 3; Basketball, 2. Edwin R. Davis. “Punk.” Motto-“Good things come in small packages.” Manager football, 4. Dramatics, 3-4. “He plays a corking good game of tennis.” Eugene F. Downs. Motto-“There’s room at the top.” Honor Essay, 4; Dramatics, 4. “His report cards are simply marvels... He eats Math like the frosting off a cake and when he’s made up makes the most villainous looking villain.” Leslie M. Downs-“Red.” Motto-none given. Class

president 4, Dramatics, 4; Football 3, 4; Basketball, 3-4; Baseball, 3-4. “Next year Leslie intends to go to a school in Hawaii.” Elizabeth C. Francis. “Betty. Motto-“Just a smile and then forget!” Dramatics, 3. “We guess she doesn’t forget so much when one peek at her report reveals the marks she drags.” Paul A. Gareau. Motto-“What other fools have done, I can do.” Manager basketball, 4. Editor in chief of Killonian, 4; Dramatics, 2-3-4; Football, 3-4. “No dozen men can fill his place when he leaves.” Anna A. Henault. Motto-“Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow you die (t).” Dramatics 3-4. “Ice cream cones and chocolate bars are so tempting.” Nora Holehouse. “Red”. Motto-None given. Dramatics 3-4. Sec. Lyceum, 4; Sec. Athletic Ass’n, 4. “She is always ready and willing for absolutely anything from a party to a church meeting. Besides she runs a regular bureau of ‘advice to the love-lorn.’” Beatrice R. Lindner-“Bee”. Motto-“When duty and pleasure crash, let duty go to smash.” “She is always on the go...She intends to go to Willimantic next year and from there make numerous little first graders sit up and take notice.” Alice A. Lathrop-“AL”. Motto-“Greet’em with a smile.” “In all Al’s years at K.H. S. she has been one of the most popular girls, especially among the opposite sex.” Germain Meurnier. Motto- “Ain’t seen nothin’ yet.” Football, 3-4; Basketball, 2-3-4; Pres. Lyceum, 4; Adv. Manager of Killonian, 4. “Two dollars on the back page--best advertising medium in the city, civic enterprise, public duty!” Germain can throw that line in his sleep now.” “Also Germain proved himself quite a boy at athletics, and as for dancing--he sure takes the fur-lined bath tub.” (Have you ever heard that expression before? I hadn’t and neither had the other vol-



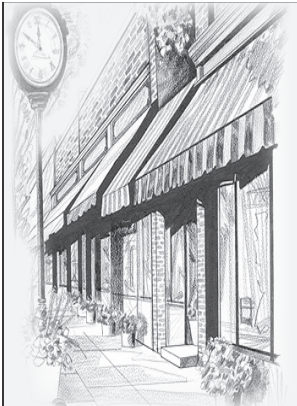
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unteers at the Center the day I was researching this. See a little more about the expression at the end of the list of graduates). Ruth Spaulding. Motto-“Aim high.”. Dramatics, 4. “Here we have one of the less frivolous girls of the class, seldom heard from unless there’s something worth while to talk about... If she follows her motto, success will follow her.” Blanche Tetreault. Motto-“Hitch your wagon to a star.” “Blanche is another of our speed artists in the commercial department. And she can make that typewriter step.” Arthur V. Williams-“Pop”. Motto-“Love one another, especially the girls.” Athletic Editor-4; Football, 2-3-4; Class Pres., 3; Basketball, 1-2-3-4; Baseball, 1-2-3-4. “Pop is the athletic warrior of K.H.S.” Mildred Wilde. Motto-“Perseverance wins success.” Honor’ Essay, 4. “Milly is another one of our brilliant scholars. We guess that shorthand must be one of her favorite studies for she can make her pencil fly almost as swiftly as the erasers sometimes fly around the room.” Andrew Vadas-“Gussie.” Motto-“You’re only young once.” Basketball; Football, 4. “Allow us to formally introduce you to K. H. S.’s star basketball player...Making baskets is like taking candy from a kid for ‘Gus.’” Ella Young-Motto-“Deeds are greater than words.” “She is quite an accomplished pianist and has, every Tuesday morning for a year, played an accompaniment to her classmates’ melodious voices.” Ruth E. Young-“Rufus”. Motto-“Don’t cross the bridge until you come to it.” Orchestra, 1-2-3. “With a hop, skip, and final bounce Ruth lands upon the scene. Perhaps you found the name of a relative. If not, perhaps you just enjoyed the humor in the yearbook from 1924. Congratulations to this year’s graduates!

Now for a comment about “a fur-lined bath tub.” An internet search helped only a little and did not really explain the expression, but I did find some interesting tidbits. In days gone by metal or even wooden tubs were often lined with fabric such as linen sheeting to help protect the user from the sharp edges of the metal or from wooden splinters. I was asking my youngest sister Susie if she’d ever heard the expression, and she was able to come up with the following site: www.weirduniverse.net/blog/comments/velvet_lined_bathtub. The Nov. 27, 1936 Emory County Progress showed a photo of Broadway dancer Barbara Beck of New York City with her new mohair velvet bathtub. “Interior decorators predict a popular future for this new fad.” (Courtesy of Susan Dayan June 4). Hmm! I don’t think it ever took off. However, it did provoke interesting discussions.

I thought the bathtub was much older than it actually is. According to www.badeloftusa.com/ideas/history-of-the-bathtub/ it was invented by “John Michael Kohler in 1883 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Creating a horse trough out of cast iron, he attached four decorative feet and covered the whole thing in an enamel finish. His company, the Kohler company, who made their living off of creating products out of steel and cast iron, quickly changed production with Kohlr’s invention.”

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, June 2024. Special thanks to Marilyn Labbe and Susan Dayan. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or www.killinglyhistorical.org or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.



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KILLINGLY
CHRONICLES
JUNE 24 –
JUNE 29

TOWN HALL MEETINGS (agendas and minutes at www.killingly.org)
Monday the 24th
Republican Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.
Tuesday the 25th
Democratic Town Committee Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 7 p.m.
Wednesday the 26th
Board of Education Meeting (Town Meeting Room – Town Hall) 7 p.m.
Thursday the 27th
Open Space Land Acquisition Meeting (Room 102 – Town Hall) 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Monday the 24th
Book Character Playlist (Library) (All day)
Tuesday the 25th
Can't Put It Down Book Club (Ages 50 and up) (Library) 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Teen Program Totes (Ages 13-18) (Library) All day
Wednesday the 26th
Little Listeners (Ages 0-5) (Library) 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Scrimshaw: The Sailor's Art (Ages 10-18) (Library) 2 to 3 p.m.
Thursday the 27th
Fun with Farm Animals (Ages 4+) (Library) 1 to 2 p.m.
Repurpose, Reuse, Recycle (Ages 18+) (Library) All day
Friday the 28th
Pose & Paint (Ages 13-18) (Library) 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Saturday the 29th
Design Our Library Card Photography Contest (Ages 18 and up) (Library)

KILLINGLY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS/EVENTS COMING UP...
Camp Wallaby – starting July 1 for Grades 1-8
Register at the Killingly Parks and Recreation Department in-person or go online to www.killingly-pr.recdesk.com
Beginner Rhythm Ballroom Dancing – July 1 through July 15 (Killingly Community Center) (Mondays)
Field Hockey Summer Camp – July 29 through Aug. 2
Girls Open Play Volleyball Grades 6-12 – June 19 through Aug. 15 (Killingly Community Center) (Wednesdays and Thursdays)
Killingly River Trail Fun Runners Series – July 11 through Aug. 15 (Thursdays)
Monday Indoor Summer Yoga Session 1 – July 8 through July 29 (Killingly Community Center) (Thursdays)
Thursday Indoor Summer Yoga Session 2 – Aug. 15 through September 5th (Killingly Community Center) (Thursdays)
Virtual High Five 2024 (Killingly Community Center) (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
Group Guitar with Killingly School of Music – July 1 through July 29 (Killingly Community Center) (Mondays)
Group Violin with Killingly School of Music – July 1 through July 29 (Killingly Community Center) (Mondays)
Wickford – Aug. 15
KPRD Jeep Invasion – July 3
Killingly Football Camp – July 15 through July 18 (Grades 3-9)
Killingly Golf Camp – July 22 through July 26 (Grades 4-9)
Cross Sound Ferry Lighthouse Cruise – July 17
Outdoor Pound with Chris (Session 2) – July 30 through Aug. 27 (Tuesdays)
Check out the Killingly Parks and Recreation website for more daily class schedules, camps, trips and events!
For updates and changes, please visit the calendar on the Town of Killingly Web site at www.killingly.org.

“Ah! It’s just my luck!” yelled Bob, slamming the phone in frustration. In the high-stakes sales world, every call and meeting counts, and Bob had one of those months when nothing seemed to go right.
His colleagues were closing deals left and right while Bob sat at his desk, staring at another lost opportunity. It seemed that every deal slipped right through his fingers! Determined to change his luck, Bob approached Lisa, the top performer in their sales team. He asked, “How are you always so lucky? You’re making sales every day!”
“It’s not luck, Bob,” she laughed. “Luck has very little to do with it. Let me show you a few things that might change your perspective.” Lisa then shared her secrets for creating her own luck in sales.
“First off, physical fitness is important,” Lisa began. When you care for your body, you have mental clarity and won’t get

stressed easily. A healthy body supports a sharp mind, essential in sales.”
Bob nodded, making mental notes. “I’ve been meaning to hit the gym,” he admitted.
“Next, courage is key. You must be willing to take risks, make that cold call, or approach a potential client. Fear of rejection is deadly in sales.”
“I do get nervous,” Bob said. “I guess that’s something I need to work on.”
“Imagination is another important factor,” Lisa said. “You need to think creatively about how to meet your client’s needs and solve their problems.”
Bob nodded. “I’ve always admired how you come up with unique solutions.”
“Your speech is also vital. How you communicate can make or break a deal. Clear, confident, and persuasive speech helps build trust and rapport.”
“That’s something I struggle with,” Bob admitted. “I sometimes stumble over my words.”
“Practice makes per-

fect,” Lisa encouraged. “A pleasing personality is another must-have. People want to do business with someone they like and trust. Be friendly, approachable, and genuinely interested.”
“I can do that,” Bob said. “I enjoy talking to people!”
“Self-confidence is a big one. If you don’t believe in yourself and the product you’re selling, neither will your clients. Confidence helps reassure clients that they’re making the right choice.”
“I’ll work on that,” Bob said determinedly. “I can see how all these factors play a role.”
Lisa paused and then leaned in closer. “Here’s a secret. Everything works a little in sales, and nothing works a lot. While all these factors are important, neither one of them alone would get you the sale, but combined, they increase your chances of success.”
Bob was starting to see the picture. “So, it’s about

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
TOBY
MOORE

balance and putting it all together?”
“E x a c t l y,” Lisa said. “But there’s one factor that works more than all the others, and if you do it, it will change your luck.”
Lisa smiled at Bob. “Hard work is one thing you have absolute control over. And if you think about it, all the other points I mentioned boil down to hard work, too. Hard work is the most reliable way to improve your ‘luck’ and achieve success.”
With Lisa’s advice fresh in his mind, Bob decided to make some changes.
He set his alarm an hour earlier for a morning workout, boosting his energy and mood. He took risks, reaching out to clients he had felt too intimidated to approach or thought would say no. His imagination flourished as he brainstormed creative solutions for the client’s needs, and he practiced

his speech in front of the mirror to improve his communication skills.
Bob also focused on developing a pleasing personality. He tried to be friendlier and more approachable, always showing genuine interest in clients. His self-confidence grew with each small victory, fueling his determination.
Eventually, he started closing deals, winning over clients with his dedication and newfound skills. Once a place of frustration, his desk now buzzed with activity and success.
One day, as Bob celebrated closing a major deal, he caught Lisa’s eye across the office. She smiled and gave him a thumbs-up, knowing that Bob had finally understood the relationship between work and luck.
Bob learned that it was never about chance—it was about putting in the hard work and dedication needed to achieve his desired success.

Celebrate Pollinator Month by inviting a
variety of pollinators to your garden



Melinda Myers

A Monarch caterpillar on an Asclepias tuberosa plant.

June is National Pollinator Month and it’s a great time to celebrate all the pollinators that play an important role in producing food, fiber, medicine, and more that we rely on. When you think of pollinators, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds are likely the first that come to mind. But moths, wasps, beetles, flies, bats, and some other birds also help pollinate our gardens. More than 80 percent of all flowering plant species, including 180,000 different species and more than 1,200 crops, rely on them for pollination.
Like honeybees and Monarch butterflies, many of these pollinators are struggling and their populations dwindling due to pesticides and loss of habitat. Gardeners can make a difference by creating pollinator gardens filled with their favorite plants.
When designing a garden select plants with different shapes, colors, and bloom times. You’ll attract a wide array of pollinators and provide them with a constant supply of nectar and pollen. Include bright white, yellow, blue, and ultraviolet-colored flowers to attract the bees. Add some tubular flowers with a spur or landing pad for the butterflies. They are especially fond of purple and red blossoms.
Don’t be in a hurry to squash those beetles you find meandering over your plants. Many do not harm the plant but rather move pollen as they travel throughout your garden. These generalists visit a variety of plants, but most often can be found pollinating large strongly scented flowers like Canadian ginger, magnolia, paw paws, and yellow pond lilies.
They can be annoying, but flies are also busy pollinating your flowers. They are generalists, like beetles, and tend to pollinate small flowers with shallow, funnel-like, or complex trap-like flowers. You’re likely to see them on annuals, bulbs, goldenrod, skunk cabbage, paw paws, and members of the carrot family.
It may be difficult to welcome the often dreaded and feared wasps and hornets to your garden. However, most are solitary, not all sting and some are predators or parasitoids that help manage garden pests.
Besides helping with mosquito control, bats pollinate over 500 species of night-blooming flowers around the world. They prefer those with a musty or rotten odor of mostly tropical and some varieties of desert plants.
Most of us enjoy watching humming-



GARDEN
MOMENTS
MELINDA
MYERS

birds visit our gardens and feeders. Hummingbirds are the primary bird pollinators in North America, carrying pollen on their beaks and feathers. They prefer brightly colored scarlet, orange, red, and white tubular flowers. Baltimore orioles are accidental pollinators spreading pollen as they feed on flower nectar while white-winged doves pollinate and spread saguaro cactus seeds.
Be sure to include milkweed, herbs, trees, shrubs, and grasses with foliage that caterpillars and others feed upon. Use native plants including trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses whenever possible. These plants have evolved with pollinators and provide the greatest benefit. Make sure the native plants you select are suited to the growing conditions and available space.
Don’t overlook cultivated plants that also attract and support pollinators. Many have flowers or foliage that benefit a variety of pollinators. Watch for bees visiting thyme, borage, and calamint flowers; hummingbirds sipping on salvia, cuphea, and verberna blossoms; and swallowtail caterpillars munching on dill, fennel, and parsley leaves.
Once you create a pollinator-friendly environment, give them time to discover your pollinator paradise. It may take time but once the word gets out you will be enjoying lots of pollinators and the many benefits they provide. For more information watch Melinda Myers’ Underappreciated Pollinators webinar recording and download the hand-out (MelindaMyers.com).
Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers’ Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Local Eastern students make Dean’s List

Ciara King of Dayville, a full-time sophomore majoring in Exploratory Education.
Brandon Steen of Dayville, a full-time senior majoring in Computer Science.
Grace Gronski of Woodstock Valley, a full-time junior majoring in Pre-Elementary Education.
Ty Collige of Woodstock Valley, a full-time senior majoring in Art.
Sierra Duplisea of Woodstock Valley, a full-time junior majoring in Psychology.
Emma Rudman of Putnam, a full-time senior majoring in Criminology.
Selena Cordero of Putnam, a full-time senior majoring in Social Work.
Olivia Hassett-Mellen of Putnam, a full-time junior majoring in Theatre and Performance Media.
Jordyn Poole of Putnam, a full-time senior majoring in Health Sciences.
Jack Smalarz of North Grosvenordale, a full-time junior majoring in Computer Science.
Gianna Stoico of North Grosvenordale, a full-time senior majoring in Political Science.
Makayla Tackson of Thompson, a full-time senior majoring in Mathematics.
Tanner Favreau of Thompson, a full-time sophomore majoring in Biology.
Allison Thebeau of Thompson, a full-time sophomore majoring in Theatre and Performance Media.
Kayla Gaudreau of Eastford, a full-time senior majoring in Business Administration.
Adam Schimmelpfennig of Pomfret Center, a full-time senior majoring in Computer Science.
Sarah Tuttle of Pomfret Center, a full-time senior majoring in Pre-Elementary Education.
Eric Phongsang of Pomfret Center, a full-time senior majoring in Political Science.
Rachel Labak of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Labor and Human

Resources.
Aidan Stewart of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Biology.
Ryan Hanlon of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Communication.
Sierra Bedard of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Political Science.
Joshua Lavitt of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Criminology.
Ava Basak of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore majoring in Finance.
Dylan Chamberlin of Woodstock, a full-time junior majoring in Computer Science.
Danielle Chaput of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Psychology.
Stefan Chervenkov of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in English.
Alexandra Cloutier of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore majoring in Pre-Social Work.
Ethan Craig of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore majoring in Political Science.
Evan Gianfriddo of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Music.
Caleb Hall of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Biology.
Grace Herindeen of Woodstock, a full-time sophomore majoring in English.
Brynn Kusnarowis of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Communication.
Rachel Labak of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Labor and Human Resources.
Aidan Stewart of Woodstock, a full-time senior majoring in Biology.

To qualify for Dean’s List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they’ve accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded coursework with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Bryant University students named to Dean's List

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement and have been named to the Spring 2024 Deans' List.

To earn a place on the Deans' List, students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

Matthew Roethlein of Pomfret Center

Nathan Roethlein of Pomfret Center

Avery Pedersen of Putnam

Karly Seiffert of Dayville

About Bryant University

For nearly 160 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,700 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron's. Visit www.bryant.edu.

Evan Gianfriddo of Woodstock completes internship

WILLIMANTIC — Students from a broad selection of disciplines at Eastern Connecticut State University gained valuable professional experience through internships during the spring 2024 semester. Internships ranged from live sound engineering to hospitality and criminal justice services.

Among the student interns was Evan Gianfriddo 2024 of Woodstock, a senior who majors in Music.

Gianfriddo interned as a sound engineer at The Stomping Ground, a bar, restaurant and live music venue in Putnam. Responsibilities included "communicating with musicians, running live sound, mixing and setting the sound to fit the room."

Salve Regina University announces Dean's List

NEWPORT, R.I. — The following students were named to the Dean's List during the spring 2024 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Livia Armstrong of Woodstock

Mallory Tyimok of Pomfret Center

Zoe Wilcox of Pomfret Center

Niamh Raftery of Thompson

Ella Davis of Brooklyn

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. For more than 75 years, Salve has offered rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled at Salve in 48 undergraduate majors, 13 Master's degree programs, combined Bachelor's/Master's programs, and doctoral programs.

Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year transformational framework through which they develop the experience, skills, and wisdom required for a fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy, and ideas. For more information visit salve.edu.

Samuel Hagan named to College of Charleston President's List

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Samuel Hagan of Woodstock was named to the College of Charleston Spring 2024 President's List. Hagan is majoring in Accounting.

To qualify for the President's List (Highly Distinguished), students must earn a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

The College of Charleston is a public liberal arts and sciences university located in the heart of historic Charleston, South Carolina. Founded in 1770, the College is among the nation's top universities for quality education, student life and affordability. With more than 10,000 students, the College of Charleston offers the distinctive combination of a beautiful and historic campus, modern facilities and cutting-edge programs.

Kaylynn Horan of Putnam named to University of Alabama Presidents List

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Kaylynn Horan was named to the University of Alabama Presidents List for spring semester 2024.

A total of 13,103 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2024 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's). These driven students are making waves across UA's more than 70 undergraduate programs.

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information visit news.ua.edu.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides an inclusive, forward-thinking environment and nearly 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.

Thompson resident earns degree from UConn

STORRS — Jesse Trotter, a resident of Thompson and Tourtellotte Memorial High School's 2020 Valedictorian, received his degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Connecticut Engineering Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 4 in the Gampel Pavilion Campus Stadium Building.

UConn is a renowned institution that has played a significant role in shaping higher education in the U.S. Located in Storrs, UConn is recognized for its top-notch academic programs and vibrant campus culture.

Biomedical engineering ranks as one of the hardest engineering majors there is. The studies focused on chemistry and biology, and Trotter's career will concentrate on the development of new equipment and devices for human health.

FREE SUMMER MEALS

For All Kids Ages 18 and Under!

Meals must be eaten on-site

Monday-Friday
June 24th-Aug 9th
(excluding July 4th)

Mary R. Fisher
Elementary School
(Cafeteria Entrance)
785 Riverside Drive,
N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Breakfast (8-8:30am)
Lunch (11:15am-11:45)

TEEG **NOW**

<http://district.thompsonk12.org>

Monday-Friday
June 24th-Aug 16th
(excluding July 4th)

Gazebo @ Riverside Park
815 Riverside Drive,
N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Lunch (11:15am-12:00)
With Bagged Activities

USDA

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA

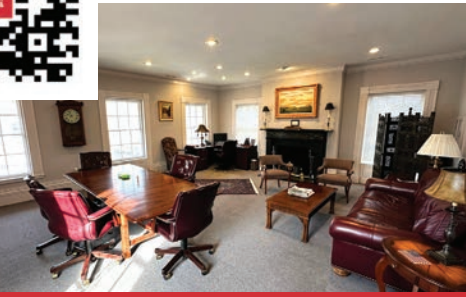
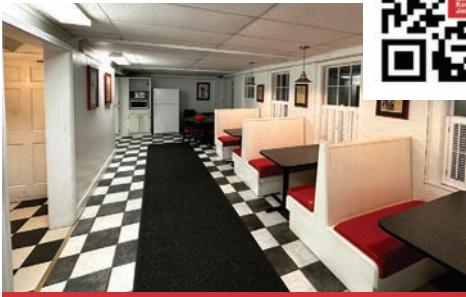


9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING
FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

- Listing price: \$650,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished





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ANIMAL FACT:

TRUE OR FALSE?
ONCE ADOPTED, PETS FROM SHELTERS AND RESCUE GROUPS TYPICALLY COST MORE THAN PETS THAT ARE PURCHASED AT STORES OR FROM BREEDERS.

ANSWER: FALSE

How they say that in...

ENGLISH: Rabbit
SPANISH: Conejo
ITALIAN: Coniglio
FRENCH: Lapin
GERMAN: Kaninchen

Crossword Puzzle

1		2				3
5						
7						

ACROSS
1. Curly-tailed rodent
4. Felines
5. Occasion
7. Daytime light

DOWN
1. Houses unwanted pets
2. Not certain
3. Corrals dogs on walks
4. Portable bed
6. East coast state

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

JUN 19

- 1862: CONGRESS PROHIBITS SLAVERY IN ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES.
- 1943: THE PHILADELPHIA EAGLES AND PITTSBURGH STEELERS OF THE NFL MERGE FOR ONE SEASON DUE TO PLAYER SHORTAGES.
- 1960: THE FIRST NASCAR RACE IS HELD AT CHARLOTTE MOTOR SPEEDWAY.

New Word

KENNEL
a small shelter for a dog or cat

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to grilling. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 24 = O)

A. 12 11 26 10 10
Clue: Outdoor cooking device

B. 8 11 24 8 13 2 17
Clue: Gas fuel

C. 5 23 13 11 5 24 13 10
Clue: Grill fuel option

D. 5 24 24 4 26 2 12
Clue: Preparing a meal

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7		4				3		
6						7		2
8						6		
				2	5		3	6
	6		7			9	6	
					9	6		
3				8	9		5	
				5	2		4	

ANSWER: A. grill B. propane C. charcoal D. cooking